

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus for trapping and burning ~~particulate matter (PM)~~PM, which comprises electrodes and an insulative honeycomb structure having a number of cell passages, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the electrodes make an electric field in said honeycomb structure, the electric field not being parallel to the direction of the cell passages of said honeycomb ~~structure.~~ structure, the electrodes comprise an electric-discharge electrode that extends upstream of an upstream end of the honeycomb structure.

2. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said electric field is at the angle of at least 45 degree to the cell passages of the honeycomb structure.

3. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said honeycomb structure is a straight-flow ~~type~~ honeycomb structure.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~to claim 1, wherein said honeycomb structure carries a PM oxidation catalyst.

6. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according ~~claim 5~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~to claim 5, wherein said PM oxidation catalyst is selected from the group consisting of CeO₂, Fe/CeO₂, Pt/CeO₂ and Pt/Al₂O₃, and combination thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said electrodes comprise a center electrode and an

outer electrode surrounding the center electrode, and ~~that~~ said honeycomb structure is positioned between the center electrode and the outer electrode.

8. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said electrodes comprise a mesh electrode on the upstream end of said honeycomb structure and an outer electrode around ~~the~~ a circumference surface of said honeycomb structure.

9. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 8~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 8, wherein said electrodes further comprise a second mesh electrode on ~~the~~ a downstream end of said honeycomb structure, said second mesh electrode being electrically connected with the outer electrode.

10. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said electrodes comprise a center electrode and an outer electrode surrounding the center electrode; ~~that~~ said honeycomb structure is positioned between said center electrode and said outer electrode; ~~that~~ said center electrode extends beyond the upstream end of said honeycomb structure; and ~~that the~~ a radially inner area of said honeycomb structure has a lower gas-flow resistivity than that of ~~the~~ an outer area thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 10~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 10, wherein said radially inner area of the honeycomb structure has a perforated hole through the honeycomb structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 11~~ ~~characterized in that the ratio of the~~ claim 11, wherein a ratio of a diameter of said honeycomb structure to that of said perforated hole is 10: 1 to 2: 1.

13. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said honeycomb structure has opposite outer surfaces,

and ~~that~~ said electrodes comprise a pair of plate electrodes respectively placed on said opposite outer surfaces of the honeycomb structure.

14. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 13~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 13, wherein the apparatus comprises two or more sets of said honeycomb structure and said pair of plate electrodes.

15. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said honeycomb structure has two pairs of opposite outer surfaces; ~~that~~ said electrodes comprise two pairs of opposite plate electrodes; and ~~that~~ each pair of the opposite plate electrodes is placed on each pair of the opposite outer surfaces of the honeycomb structure such that said two pairs of opposite plate electrodes alternatively make the electric fields having two different directions which are non-parallel to the direction of the cell passages of the honeycomb structure.

16. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 15~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 15, wherein said honeycomb structure is in a rectangular parallelepiped form, and ~~that~~ said electrodes are positioned on the four outer surfaces thereof which are parallel to the direction of the cell passage.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the honeycomb structure carries at least one metal selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal.

18. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 17~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 17, wherein said at least one metal is potassium or barium.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the honeycomb structure carries a manganese dioxide.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the honeycomb structure carries a material having a high dielectric constant.

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 22 characterized in that~~ claim 22, wherein said material is a material having a static specific dielectric constant of more than 100 at the temperature of 250°C.

24. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to ~~claim 22 characterized in that~~ claim 22, wherein said material is a barium titanate or strontium titanate.

25-32. (Canceled)